

Amendments to the Specification

Please add the following paragraph at page 1, line 6:

-- RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a continuation of prior application serial no. 09/694,971 filed October 24, 2000. --

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 4, line 20 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In Fig. 1B, the fingers, such as 210, have moved to a mid-point in the elongated tracks or slots, such as 202, in order to clutch and carry a relatively mid-sized box 220.--

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 15, line 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The many advantages of the invention should now be clear. The inventive mandrel accommodates a great variety of boxes. A maximum amount of existing hardware is used to avoid costly engineering, tooling, inventory control, and the like. The box may be set down and picked up while being carried by the conveyor to provide for a variety of different functions, such as ~~weighting~~ weighing a box to insure that each box has the same correct amount of product. There is no need to readjust the packaging machine every time that a new size box is run through the machine. removable fingers of one design may be replaced by fingers of another design in order to accomplish special functions, such as forming odd-shaped boxes, for example.--